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50 years and counting BSU celebrates with 5th annual gala



(Left to right): Nekkitia Beans, Skylyn Irby and Brittany Brown



(Left to right): Terrye Davis and Alexis Rhoden



(Left to right): Quadray Kolheim and Donald Cole

PHOTOS BY: DEVANA BOSE

The University of Mississippi Black Student Union celebrated its 50th anniversary at its 5th annual Black Student Union Gala on Friday night in the Gertrude C. Ford ballroom at The Inn at Ole Miss. Past BSU executive members were recognized, and speakers included Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Community Engagement Katrina Caldwell, Professor of Leadership and Counselor Education RoSusan Bartee and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner LaBanc. Past BSU President Curtis Weathers reflected on the triumphs of black students at Ole Miss over the past several decades before awards were presented to standout black Ole Miss faculty and students.

Library changes weekend operating hours

JORDAN HOLMAN
STAFF WRITER

Since the beginning of the semester, the J.D. Williams Library has been implementing a new schedule of operating hours. It now closes an hour earlier on Fridays – at 6 p.m. rather than 7 p.m. – and opens an hour earlier on Sundays – at noon instead of 1 p.m.

“We chose this so that we would not be losing any operating hours overall,” Stan Whitehorn, head of library facilities, said. “We monitored usage and activity patterns and found that we ultimately didn’t have enough students staying late on Friday to justify remaining open until 7. So we decided to close an hour early.”

For a few weeks last semester, the J.D. Williams Library used its employees at the circulation desks at the front to monitor how many students entered and exited the library. They found that while many did not choose to stay late on Fridays, many were found waiting outside for the library to open Sundays.

“I’ve been to campus a few times on Sundays and thought I could get in at noon, only to find I couldn’t,” Faith Harris, a senior exercise science major, said. “I think this new schedule will be really nice and help a lot, especially around midterms and finals, when the library gets really busy.”

The library usually adjusts hours accordingly during midterm and finals seasons, though those changes usually only last during the weeks

UM plans future use of old Baptist hospital

TAYLOR VANCE
STAFF WRITER

The University of Mississippi purchased the old Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi facility last June to allow more space for the growing number of students and academic programs. Now, the university is debating plans for what will become of the building.

The university has not released any information about what the administration specifically plans to do with the property, but the size of the facility gives the university many options for how to use it. The purchased site has a total of 15

acres, a 428,000-square-foot building and more than 650 parking spaces.

“The university is excited about the quality and amount of space, which will benefit our students, staff and faculty,” said Ryan Whittington, Ole Miss marketing and brand strategy director. “The additional spaces provides us with many options to consider, and efforts are currently underway to determine which academic, research and support units should move to the new facility.”

Ole Miss has grown in enrollment almost every year with a current total enrollment population of more than 23,000 students. With the large increase,

the university has been looking to add more buildings, and purchasing the hospital was cheaper than building another one. The university purchased the building for \$22 million, and Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter seemed pleased with the purchase.

“The purchase of this property allows us to provide improved space for our support units and other functions that serve external constituencies,” Vitter said in a written statement. “It will also be a major factor in helping us effectively address our capacity for future growth.”

Baptist Hospital sold the old building located on South La-

mar Boulevard to the university because it has relocated to a newer, bigger and more modern facility on Belk Boulevard, which connects South Lamar Boulevard and Old Taylor Road. The hospital said it wanted the old building to go to someone who would use the space to help the city and community.

“This was a very easy decision for us,” Jason Little, president and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care, said. “We have been part of this community for nearly 30 years, and we have enjoyed a great relationship with the university during that

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COLUMN

Shutdown: ‘Fiscal conservatism is dead’

REAGAN MEREDITH
STAFF COLUMNIST

Thursday morning, Senate leaders agreed to propose a budget that would avoid another government shutdown like the one we had in January. The proposed budget consisted of about \$300 billion in additional funds over two years for military and nonmilitary programs, almost \$90 billion in disaster relief in response to last year’s hurricanes and wildfires and a higher statutory debt ceiling.

Another government shutdown looked avoidable.

On Thursday night, much to the dismay of Republican and Democratic leaders, Sen. Rand Paul protested the bill, and at 12:01 a.m Friday morning, the United States government shut down again.

Shortly before 2 a.m., the Senate voted 71-28 to approve the deal. Around 5:30 a.m., the House voted 240-186 to approve the deal, then sent it to the president’s desk.

What does this short-lived shutdown represent? Fiscal conservatism is dead, and the

Tea Party was fake.

This bill had its issues on both sides of the aisle. Some on the left side of the aisle voted “no” because there wasn’t any room for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Some on the right side of the aisle called out its absurd spending.

Let’s put this in perspective. A \$300 billion spending bill, along with a higher statutory debt ceiling was approved in a Republican majority Senate, a Republican majority House and a Republican White House.

This is the same House and Senate Republican majority that was voted into office during the Tea Party wave of 2010. These are the same Republicans who called out President Barack Obama’s absurd spending habits and voted against them.

The bill passed early Friday morning means that the Republicans no longer have budgetary reconciliation. This means that Republicans in the Senate nor the House can pass anything with a simple majority. Subsequently, this means that congressional Republicans will not

get anything meaningful passed before this year’s midterms, besides DACA ... maybe.

This will have lasting implications not only for the fiscal health of this country, but for Republicans’ chances of controlling the House of Representatives come 2019.

What was suspected, but confirmed on Friday morning, is not only that fiscal conservatism is dead and the Tea Party was fake, but that Republican majorities do not matter. Only a Republican supermajority could truly be called a majority.

Republicans will tout their conservatism when there is a Democrat in the White House. They will pass Obamacare repeals and act as though they are against spending beyond the imagination.

But as soon as a Republican is in the White House, Obamacare repeal attempts failed multiple times, and a \$300 billion budget deal was passed.

So, as the debt ceiling is raised and the debt continually spirals out of control, so does our country’s fiscal health. The process no longer matters, and, appar-

ently, neither do the American people.

Paul said it best in a tweet right after midnight Friday morning: “Tonight, you could feel the frustration and embarrassment growing in Congress as we exposed the hypocrisy of Republicans who are joining in an unholy alliance and spending free-for-all with Democrats at the expense of the American people and our party’s supposed principles.”

Reagan Meredith is a sophomore political science major from Monroe, Louisiana.

CORRECTION

An article and headline about Constance Slaughter-Harvey on Page 4 in Thursday’s Daily Mississippian misidentified her. Slaughter-Harvey was the first African-American female graduate from the UM School of Law and the first African-American female judge in Mississippi.

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Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Black History Month a time to further knowledge



JONATHAN LOVELADY
STAFF COLUMNIST

With Black History Month finally here, it is important to truly understand the origins and the goals of such a majestic holiday. Created by Carter G. Woodson, one of the first historians to study African-American history, the holiday originated with Negro History Week. Over time, this became what we know today as Black History Month, which was first proposed by black educators and students at Kent State in 1969.

The exciting part about this month is that it coincides with former President Abraham Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12 and Frederick Douglass' on Valentine's Day. This more than likely came to fruition because these two people were considered, to an extent, revolutionary leaders who helped African-Americans push for freedom.

In 2016, the holiday was introduced in the Netherlands. In a previous article, I



PHOTO COURTESY: AP PHOTO | JULIE JACOBSON

Bronx resident Claudette Colvin talks about segregation laws in the 1950s while having her photo taken Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009 in New York. More than 50 years after her refusal to surrender her bus seat to a white woman set the stage for a similar act of defiance by Rosa Parks, Colvin is finally getting her due as a civil rights pioneer.

criticized Zwarte Piet, a controversial Dutch folk figure who is often portrayed by a white person in black face, but this recognition of the holiday is substantial in moving that country forward and acknowledging the role of African descendants in all parts of the world. Other countries that celebrate Black History Month are Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Why does this all matter? Well, in an increasingly globalized society, it is more

important than ever to understand different groups of people. I encourage you to do your research, but I will share some things you probably don't know. We all learned of significant people throughout African-American history, but that has led to the exclusion of many other influential people from our understanding of history.

For example, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was one of several women before Rosa Parks to refuse to give up her

seat on a Montgomery bus. Colvin and other women were arrested, but many civil rights organizations felt that since Parks was an adult and secretary of the local NAACP chapter at the time, it made more sense to publicize her protest. I don't say this to degrade Parks in any way but to point out that it is quite impressive how it all worked out.

In another moment of our history, enslaved African-Americans have often been called feeble in fighting

back against oppression. But according to countless historical records, this is ludicrous, for the first protest against slavery happened in 1688. Although white men drafted the documents, referred to as the Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery, I believe that they most likely met with slaves to come to the conclusion to end slavery. This petition preceded numerous North American slave rebellions that followed in the 1700s and 1800s.

Finally, contrary to the popular belief that millions of enslaved Africans came to the United States, only about 388,000 arrived in the U.S. Millions of others went to South America and the Caribbean between 1700 and the mid-1800s, where they faced oppression we often don't think of.

Though this history was brief and not in depth, these are among the countless stories and pieces of information that can be found in books, documentaries and living people's stories. Black History Month is not about treating African-Americans specially or using the month for your own reasons but to genuinely further your knowledge and understanding.

Jonathan Lovelady is a junior economics major from Los Angeles.



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LIBRARY

continued from page 1

of exams. This change will be permanent, as it reflects a need of a number of students'.

"When I've come to the library on a Sunday, I've seen people waiting around outside for it to open," Harris said. "It makes much more sense that it would open at noon rather than 1, which always seemed a weird time to me."

Whitehorn said he believes opening an hour earlier on Sundays will help the students while not affecting his staff much.

"We will still have the same amount of hours a week to work, so I don't see this affecting any of our employees adversely," he said.

The Science Library across campus will also be closing at 6 p.m. on Fridays, though it will continue to open at 1 p.m. on Sundays. This schedule reflects the lack of student demand for the library to open any earlier. Should there become a



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

The J.D. Williams Library changed its hours by closing at 6 p.m. on Fridays and opening at noon on Sundays.

demand, they plan to adjust their opening schedule accordingly.

Though not widely broadcasted, the minor schedule adjustment will help the J.D. Williams Library provide more services to students wanting a quiet place to study on Sundays.

"Hopefully we can be more effective to the students with our new hours," Whitehorn said. "We are here to be a service to the students, after all."

Students are looking forward to being able to come to campus earlier on Sundays to study.

"I was unaware of the change at first," Harris said. "But now that I know about it, I am more likely to come to campus to study on Sundays, knowing that I'll have longer now and won't ever have to wait outside in the cold for it to open."

BAPTIST

continued from page 1

time. We are proud to be able to help advance the university's mission however we can."

Hospital officials transported all patients to the new facility in November, but some staff members are still operating at the old hospital to maintain a smooth transition. The last staff members will relocate to the new facility at the end of the month.

"Beginning March 1, 2018, all utilities at the former hospital property will become the university's responsibility," Whittington said. "The university is currently developing a plan for building operations."

The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board approved the agreement with the hospital, and the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors and Oxford Board of Aldermen both thought the deal was great for the city and county.

"This sale signifies a great partnership between the University of Mississippi and Baptist North Mississippi," said Jeff Busby, president of the Board of Supervisors.

Special Olympics draws more than 300 participants

TAYLOR VANCE
STAFF WRITER

"If I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

This was the opening motto of the 2018 Ole Miss Special Olympics, where people from all over the state competed in basketball-related activities.

Volunteers from the community and university gathered in the Turner Center to support athletes with developmental disabilities. Michael Dupper, a health, exercise science and recreation management assistant professor, has been in charge of the event for almost 40 years and said the event is always a success.

"This year, we have around 300 participants," Dupper said. "We have full-court basketball, three-versus-three basketball and basketball skills for the participants."

Dupper said he couldn't have done the event without the student volunteers who help him each year. He always looks forward to hearing stories from the volunteers about what they've learned or how they enjoyed giving back to the community.

Devante Yates, a senior exercise science major from West Point, served as the coordinator for the event for his second year and said he loves getting to know people who are different from him. Yates said he soon realized that the participants "weren't any different from anyone else" and



PHOTO BY: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Competitors from the Oxford area played basketball in the Special Olympics on Friday morning. The Special Olympics gave Mississippi residents with special needs a chance to compete with each other.

that they just wanted to have fun.

"I want to show the world that people with disabilities deserve to have a normal life," Yates said. "I encourage students to get involved in the community with other people and step outside your comfort zone."

Ben Mangum, a Special Olympics athlete and mem-

ber of the Mississippi Special Olympics Board of Directors, comes to Ole Miss every year to participate in the event. He said he loves playing every sport, but basketball is his favorite sport to play.

"I love to come to make new friends and meet new people," Mangum said. "Ole Miss is a good place to be. There's a lot of good peo-

ple and a good (basketball court)."

Mangum said he always enjoys playing with students from Oxford High School, who come every year to the event. Special education teacher Rose Hickey said she's been bringing students for 10 years.

"It's so rewarding," Hickey said. "At the end of the day,

you watch these kids have so much fun."

She also said that the Oxford High School girls' basketball team comes with the students each year to encourage them and cheer them on.

Oxford High School basketball player Zharia Metcalf enjoys helping with the event so much that this was her second year to come and encourage the players when they make a basket.

"It's fun because we get to support them and see how excited they are," Metcalf said. "It's exciting to see the participants win, and we appreciate getting to support them."

Oxford High School senior Devin Jones said he has been playing in the Special Olympics for a long time and he always likes coming to Ole Miss to get away from the classroom.

"I always love coming to shoot basketball and make a lot of points," Jones said.

Jordan Potts, a junior exercise science major, was responsible for warming the players up and making the ribbons to hand out to the winners. Potts said she enjoyed the event so much that she plans on volunteering next year.

"It was so awesome to see how much happiness comes from people playing basketball together," Potts said. "This is such a great opportunity for Ole Miss to give back to the community, and I wish Ole Miss should do more things like this."

Alumnus completes bucket list item with Pavilion visit



PHOTOS BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Alumnus Wiley Martin arrived at The Pavilion via ambulance Friday. He was shown the locker rooms, the floor and The Pavilion Club, where former coaches and professors, friends and Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter made remarks and reminisced with him. Martin was the manager for the basketball team and worked with the football team until he graduated from Ole Miss in the '80s. He has had cerebral palsy all his life and now has cancer. He said seeing The Pavilion was on his bucket list. The Wiley Ray Martin Scholarship Fund has now been created to honor him and his legacy and contributions to the university.

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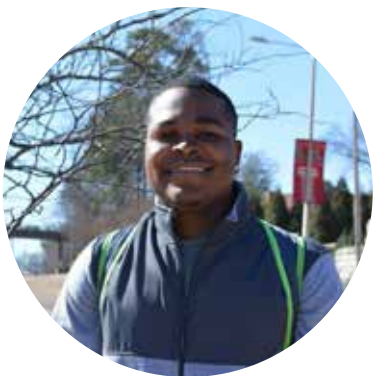


NEKKITA BEANS

"Why is Black History Month relevant to people of all backgrounds and cultures?"

"Black History Month is relevant to everyone because not everyone has had equal exposure to different cultures. It's easy to think or assume, with so much technology, that you know someone – black or white or Hispanic. This month is a time for us to showcase our history and culture and to teach our history to people who don't look like us or have the means of learning any other way."

Nekkita Beans, a senior social work major from Philadelphia and president of the Black Student Union



MATTHEW SLEDGE

"How have you seen being black as an advantage in your life?"

"I've definitely seen it as an advantage. Not to be stereotypical, but you already have a strike against you as a minority, but when you do succeed, you've proved that stereotype wrong. You have a lot more room to improve than some people from other racial backgrounds."

Matthew Sledge, a junior accounting major from Charleston



JAMIE CROW

"Why is Black History Month important to you personally?"

"Because as historical minority groups continue to rise above discrimination, it's important see how far they've come on their journey and to see how being discriminated against can make you strong."

Jamie Crow, a senior computer science major from New Albany

WORD ON THE STREET

PHOTOS AND QUOTES COMPILED BY JACQUELINE SCHLICK
STAFF WRITER

This week, we walked the Ole Miss campus to find out what students and faculty had to say about Black History Month.



ELLIE GREENBERGER

"Which African-American person has influenced your life the most?"

"One of my very close family friends is my brother's basketball coach. He started a camp called Camp Chambers that is an education and real-world experience-based program for teens headed down the wrong path. He's really helped my brother and acted as a second dad because my brother has ADD and dyslexia. He helped my brother be more confident in himself, and he's so awesome for that."

Ellie Greenberger, a sophomore journalism major from Memphis, Tennessee



ARRIANA BEAN

"Who is your favorite figure in black history?"

"Rosa Parks because she was one of the first Black History Month people I learned about. Every time Black History Month rolls around, you learn more about these famous people, things that aren't taught in schools. She encouraged other people of diverse backgrounds to stand their ground when they felt they were being discriminated against or their voices weren't being heard."

Arriana Bean, a junior pre-pharmacy major from Olive Branch



DARREN GREM

"How have your studies of the American South shaped your understanding of the importance of Black History Month?"

"I'd put this question the other way around. Any honest understanding of the American South is impossible without the inclusion of African-Americans and their past and present experiences. Black History Month is an invitation to examine that fact further and to do so year-round through a deeper understanding of how and why black lives have mattered in the South and broader nation and world."

Darren Grem, assistant professor of history and Southern studies from Rock Hill, South Carolina



SKYLYN IRBY

"How has being black empowered you?"

"Being black pushes me to work 10 times harder than the next person because there are so many obstacles we face and stereotypes that are upon us from the beginning. I have to work more just to be considered for something. It's constantly pushing me to work harder."

Skylyn Irby, a junior math major from Batesville



BRIANNA RISLEY

"What is the biggest challenge you've faced being an African-American man?"

"The biggest challenge I've always faced is being a walking stereotype. It's assumed that, because I'm big and black, that I'm aggressive and that I probably play sports, most likely football and basketball. People will always assume things about you, so you just have to find ways to work around it and prove them wrong."

Carl Tart, a sophomore exercise science major from Yazoo City

Mardi Gras Ball to foster inclusivity in Oxford

DEVNA BOSE
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

A little bit of the Big Easy will come to Oxford in the form of the Mardi Gras Ball at 8 p.m. Tuesday at The Lyric Oxford.

This event will be the first of its kind and is open to the community. OUTGrads, OutOxford and OUTlaw, organizations intended to promote equality and create a safe and comfortable climate for allies or openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of the community, are sponsoring the ball.

Blake Summers, co-founder of OutOxford, is especially proud of the community support the ball has received.

"The amount of opportunity and support from local business, Oxford Police Department and individuals speaking with me about past events is humbling. I came into working with the LGBTQ+ field unexpectedly, and I never expected it to be rewarding," he said. "I see small victories when I see new attendees becoming progressively more outgoing. We are trying to promote self-acceptance and re-educate unhealthy attitudes towards our community, internally and externally."

Summers said that the ball was open to everyone.

"Mardi Gras personifies exuberance, diversity and communal enjoyment. These themes encompass everything we hope to bring to Oxford," he said. "I'm



PHOTO BY: DEVNA BOSE

The Lyric will host Oxford's first official Mardi Gras Ball on Tuesday.

proud of Oxford's strong ally base, and I hope they continue to support us. We hope that allies will join us in a night in the sake of bonding and camaraderie between diverse demographics. It is a joy to see our community flourish and now unify for an event."

President of OUTGrads

Sarah Heying said the party will be a safe space for the entire community.

"This seemed like a great opportunity to work with some other important LGBTQ groups in the area to host an event for our community at-large," she said. "It's an affirming, open-minded party that everyone can enjoy. We hope to make this an annual event, so we're excited for this kickoff."

OUTGrads and OutOxford reached out to OUTlaw to combine efforts in the early planning stages of the event. By unifying, the groups said they hoped to be able to reach a wider audience and bring in more members of the LOU community.

Bri Warner, vice president of OUTlaw, the law school division of these organizations, said the group is sponsoring the event because it wants the law school to be an active participant in inclusive community-wide events such as the Mardi Gras Ball.

"Events like this are vital to ensuring that LGBTQ people at the university and in Oxford have an opportunity to have fun in an inclusive, safe environment," she said. "Oxford is home to so many wonderful and diverse people, and this Mardi Gras Ball will celebrate the very best Oxford has to offer."

A DJ will be at the ball, and there will be drag shows as

well as Mardi Gras-inspired décor and food. Event-goers are asked to wear cocktail or formal attire.

Ole Miss student Cole Durrett said he is planning to attend the ball because of its uniqueness in Oxford as a Mardi Gras-themed event.

"I think it might be fun because Mardi Gras doesn't get a lot of attention here in Mississippi compared to other places," he said. "It's important that Oxford has events like this to keep excitement up during the brutal cold months, when football games are no longer a steady source of hype."

Occasions like Mardi Gras Ball, which the organizations hope will become an annual event, promote a healthy community environment and make other future inclusivity events possible, Cody Bradford, treasurer of OUTlaw, said. Bradford also encouraged community donations.

Money raised from the Mardi Gras Ball will be used to foster an inclusive environment in Oxford as well as to create future events.

"Come to have fun. Balls are opportunities for people to be creative, and I hope eventually people will be inspired to embrace their personal creativity," Summers said. "A mask and beads is all you need. It's a ball, honey."

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2018 Olympics: Best- and worst-dressed



PHOTO COURTESY BY: GETTY IMAGES

BERMUDA *Worst-Dressed*

SPORTS EDITOR SAM HARRES: Low marks to the Bermudans. Wind chill in the single digits, and they break out the shorts. Oh well. Do it for the culture.

DESIGNER ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA: The Bermudans are that kid from up north who lives in the south and wears shorts during the winter but tries to play it off all cool even though they’re probably about to get hypothermia.



PHOTO COURTESY BY: AJC.COM

ITALY *Best-Dressed*

SH: Details matter. And aside from World Wars, the Italians love their details. The jackets are clean, and their scarves accent the piece well. A classy and understated look.

EM: Not to sound like Anna Wintour, but you either know fashion or you don’t, and, well, the Italians know their fashion. They entered the stadium wearing blue outfits and long padded jackets designed by Giorgio Armani.

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ACROSS

1 Prevaricator

5 Small hand drum

10 Roseanne, formerly

14 Scottish Gaelic

15 Body of salt water

16 Voice of America org.

17 In spite of

20 Squirrel stash

21 ____ for tat

22 Proverb

23 Charged particle

25 Profundity

27 So to speak

31 Go between

35 Sup

36 Composer Mahler

38 Front part of an apron

39 401(k) alternative

40 Flight

41 Organ of sight

42 Music producer Brian

43 Moray, e.g.

44 In and of ____

46 Ancient Semitic for “Lord”

47 Dissimilar

49 Cancer of the bone marrow

51 Gentle push

53 Author Deighton

54 Circa

57 Dorm overseers, for short

59 Pertaining to punishment

63 High-speed separator

66 London gallery

67 Ripped off

68 Romeo’s last words

69 Cries of discovery

70 Homerun king Hank

71 Portable shelter

DOWN

1 Tuneful Horne

2 High-performance Camaro

3 Apropos of

4 Big revision

5 Small child

6 Zwei cubed

7 Furthermore

8 Starbucks order

9 Santa ____, CA

10 Indian religious leader

11 Home to most people

12 Circular band

13 Fury

18 ____ pronounce you...

19 Aboriginal

24 Made ineffective

26 Sportive

27 French farewell

28 Femme fatale

29 Counting everything

30 Jamaican exports

32 Steel girder

33 Mideast peninsula

34 Deadly virus

37 Prefix with conference

40 Monetary unit of Zaire

45 Bess’s predecessor

46 Advantage

48 Hardens

50 Foreign Legion cap

52 Actress Scacchi

54 Car

55 Boring, so to speak

56 Director Preminger

58 WWII battle site

60 Au naturel

61 Not “fer”

62 Internet writing system that popularized “pwn3d” and “n00b”

64 1860s insignia

65 Stimp’s pal

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16

17 18 19

20 21 22

23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

35 36 37 38

39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

51 52 53

54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

63 64 65

66 67 68

69 70 71

Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

TONGA *Honorable Mention*

PHOTO COURTESY BY: GETTY IMAGES

SH: Tonga was led through the opening ceremony by a shirtless man in a traditional skirt waving the Tongan flag. I wonder what Tonga’s baby oil budget looks like, because that man was glistening.

EM: The oiled-up Tongan flag bearer by the name of Pita Taufatofua is back, and I’m here for it. Like during the 2016 Rio Olympics, he came out shirtless and all oiled up and had the ladies, including myself, speechless. Keep it up Tonga.

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	3	8			9			
			1		6	2		
				2			5	
	4							6
		2	3		1	7		
5							9	
	6			5				
		9	2		4			
			8			9	1	

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL INTERMEDIATE

4	1	6	3	9	8	5	2	7
7	9	5	4	1	2	6	8	3
2	3	8	7	5	6	1	9	4
3	6	4	2	8	9	7	1	5
5	8	7	1	4	3	2	6	9
6	2	1	5	6	7	3	4	8
6	5	3	8	2	4	9	7	1
8	7	2	9	3	1	4	5	6
1	4	9	6	7	5	8	3	2

4 former Rebels selected for 2018 NFL combine

BEN MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Later this month, Marquis Haynes, Breeland Speaks, Jordan Wilkins and Rod Taylor will go in front of NFL coaches and scouts at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis as they attempt to impress scouts at the 2018 NFL combine. Kicking off Feb. 27, the combine will last until March 5 and will consist of extensive drills, interviews and measurements.

The four Rebels will be competing against hundreds of other players from around the country in hopes of catching a team's eye and eventually earning a selection in April's NFL draft. While Haynes and Speaks are largely thought to be safe bets for the draft, an impressive combine can help players make final NFL rosters and give them a leg up in the never-ending contest to earn playing time.

For Taylor and Wilkins, who are both projected to go undrafted, the combine will serve as a chance to raise eyebrows and remind potential suitors of their skill and athleticism. While most projections leave Taylor and Wilkins off the draft board, a player's fate is rarely sealed before April. Scouts will be paying special attention to



FILE PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Jordan Wilkins runs for a touchdown during the Egg Bowl at Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville, Miss. Wilkins is now preparing for the NFL Draft after rushing for 1,751 career yards at Ole Miss.

the players' on- and off-field demeanors as they attempt to sort out future contributors from those college heroes destined for Europe or worse.

Haynes – a defensive end who led the team in sacks, tackles for loss and forced fumbles in 2017 – may lack the size to play as a defensive end in the NFL. However, his talent

on the pass rush is undeniable, and he is projected as a third-round utility pick. He will need to demonstrate to NFL personnel that he has the speed and explosiveness to make the switch to outside linebacker, pass rushing in a 4-3 system.

At 6-foot-3, 225 pounds, the dynamic defensive lineman Speaks has the size to play at

either nose tackle or on the edge at the professional level. He did both during his collegiate career but finally settled in on the edge for the final seven games of his career in Oxford. As a tackle and edge rusher 'tweener, Speaks will have to demonstrate his speed and strength to scouts if he wants to hear his name called

in April.

Running back Jordan Wilkins flew under the radar in 2017. With that said, he probably should not have. While battling a nagging ankle injury, Wilkins posted the school's first 1,000-yard rushing season since the days of Dexter McCluster. His 1,011 rushing yards are the fifth-most all-time for the Rebels. Among SEC rushers last year, Wilkins was fourth in yards per carry and finished the season with nine touchdowns. Wilkins, who also presents significant threat as a receiver, could work himself into a roster space with impressive showings at the shuttle run and 40-yard dash.

Taylor, who started every game of 2017 at right tackle for the Rebels, may have a slightly tougher path to the pro level. His quick feet and impressive agility make him a tantalizing prospect on the line, but questions remain as to his ceiling in the NFL. After earning limited minutes in earlier seasons, the former Under Armour All-American locked down a coveted position on an SEC team that led the SEC in passing yards. Coaches rave about his energy off the line, and a strong performance at the combine could land him a late-round selection or even an undrafted contract.

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Basketball drops another game, this time to Tigers

TYLER MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Ole Miss took another hit on the road Saturday, falling to LSU 82-66. The Rebels (11-14) could not assemble a lead against the Tigers (14-10) at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They tried to keep pace in the first half but were ultimately no match for the strong Tiger offense.

The Rebels failed to connect from the tip, allowing the Tigers to run up an early 9-2 lead. Senior forwards Duop Reath and Aaron Epps led LSU's offense, propelling the Tigers to a comfortable first-half lead. Ole Miss eventually trailed by 14 points with six minutes left before halftime. But the Rebels soon rallied and chipped away at the Tigers' lead. They worked hard down low, going on a 20-6 run to tie the score 37-37 at the half. The Rebels effectively shut down the Tigers' offense, holding them toothless inside the paint.

The Tigers jumped out to another lead in the second half, scoring seven of the half's first eight points. With the score 44-38, the Rebels called a timeout. But the game's momentum did not swing; the Rebels allowed the Tigers 15 more points in the first nine minutes of the second. LSU, however, ran into foul trouble after amassing eight calls, forcing sophomore guard Wayde Sims to sub in for Reath (who had



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Antonio Morgano covers his face as the Rebels gather another loss after falling to Missouri last week. Ole Miss lost 82-66 to LSU on Saturday.

three fouls).

Despite a strong first half, the Rebels lost their spark and dwindled during the final 20 minutes of play. The Tigers' offense dominated, leading by double digits for most of the half. The Rebels were ultimately unable to overcome the deficit. LSU outscored Ole Miss by 16 points en route to its third consecutive SEC win at home.

While the Rebels did win the rebound battle at the boards, they failed to capitalize on the advantage and allowed the Tigers to go on run after run.

Head coach Andy Kennedy's offense never seemed to click, missing chance after chance as his counterpart's team took advantage of its own opportunities.

Ole Miss forward Brad Stevens and guard Deandre Burnett both contributed 16 points to the losing effort. Stevens played 32 minutes and secured five rebounds along the way. Burnett grabbed three rebounds during his 30 minutes on the court. Junior guard and Southaven native Terence Davis added seven points and

nine rebounds of his own in 34 minutes. Off the bench, Breein Tyree quietly scored 10 points.

For the Tigers, Reath captured headlines with a 26-point, five-rebound effort through 24 minutes. LSU forward Aaron Epps scored 11 points and secured nine rebounds in his 31 minutes on the court. Mays added 17 points and six rebounds, while Tremont Waters accumulated 11 points, eight assists and five rebounds of his own. Overall, LSU shot 50 percent from the field.

LSU also stepped up its defense in the second half, holding Ole Miss to 29 points. The Rebels struggled to connect throughout the game, shooting 37.1 percent from the field and shooting only six baskets from 29 shots, good for 20.7 percent from 3-point land.

Ole Miss will need to turn things around if it hopes to salvage any semblance of a shot at the Big Dance next month. The Rebels, now ranked 13th in the SEC, take on Arkansas at 6 p.m. Tuesday in The Pavilion.

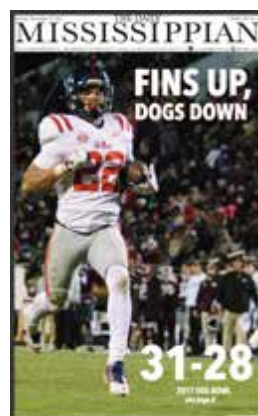
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Alabama rallies late to defeat Ole Miss women

TYLER MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The Ole Miss women's basketball team (11-14) lost a closely contested home game to Alabama (15-10) on Sunday by a score of 82-79. The Rebels led for most of the game but failed to seal the deal in its dying moments, running into foul trouble and committing a game-changing turnover.

Ole Miss started out strong and took an early lead, going up 14-6 within a few minutes. It led at the end of the first quarter 20-17.

The Crimson Tide did not roll over and fought hard throughout the second quarter, but the Rebels were able to maintain their lead. Ole Miss showed plenty of first-half aggression on offense with 11 3-pointers, ending the half on an 14-4 run. As the teams retreated to their respective locker rooms for halftime, Ole Miss led 41-34.

The third quarter brought about some difficulty for the Rebels. Alabama emerged with a fire after halftime and overcame an nine-point deficit to take a 55-54 lead. Ole Miss, in turn, ran into foul trouble as Shelby Gibson and Alissa Alston each collected three fouls. By the end of the third quarter, the Rebels' lead had dwindled to 56-55.

Something clicked for Ole Miss in the fourth as it went on a quick 7-0 run to start the quarter. The Rebels continued to struggle with foul trouble as Gibson picked up another and Torri Lewis collected her fourth as well. The Crimson Tide gradually clawed back into the game, tying the score at 78-78 with less than a minute to go.

Turnovers would prove to



PHOTO BY: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Guard Alissa Alston goes for a layup against Alabama on Sunday. Alabama won 82-79 in the final seconds.

be the difference. Ole Miss' 15 turnovers, three of which came in the last four possessions, ultimately cost it the game. One particularly untimely turnover provided Alabama with the perfect opportunity to take the lead at 80-79. Alabama added

another basket soon after, inflating its lead to three. Head coach Matt Insell credited turnovers as the reason for his team's late loss.

"We've got to protect the basketball. We can't turn the ball over," Insell said af-

ter the game.

With Alabama leading 82-79, Gibson missed a 3-point shot that would have taken the game to overtime, and the Tide sealed the win. Alabama outscored Ole Miss by four in the final quarter – just enough to make the difference.

"They played confident. They played hard. They did the things we asked them to do," Insell said.

Lewis' 26 points and five rebounds led the Rebel effort with help from Gibson's 20 points and two rebounds. Alston put up 11 points and added nine assists and two rebounds of her own.

Jordan Lewis led the Crimson Tide to victory, contributing 23 points and seven

rebounds on the afternoon. Quanetria Bolton scored 16 points and grabbed five rebounds, while Hannah Cook scored 15 points and three rebounds.

Ole Miss committed 22 personal fouls, while Alabama committed 17 infractions..

Sunday's loss was disappointing for the Rebels, but Insell felt his group deserved a better outcome.

"We should have won the game; the foul discrepancy on the free-throw line was unbelievable. Some big ones were missed down the stretch," he said.

The Rebels next take on the LSU Tigers at 7 p.m. Thursday in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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